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(11) **EP 0 720 313 B1**

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION**

(45) Date of publication and mention
of the grant of the patent:
23.06.1999 Bulletin 1999/25

(51) Int Cl.⁶: **H04B 10/18**

(21) Application number: **95308961.2**

(22) Date of filing: **11.12.1995**

(54) **High power lightwave transmitter using highly saturated amplifier for residual AM suppression**

Optischer Hochleistungssender mit hochgesättigtem Verstärker zur Unterdrückung der
Restamplitudenmodulation

Emetteur optique de forte puissance utilisant un amplificateur hautement saturé pour suppression de
la modulation d'amplitude résiduelle

(84) Designated Contracting States:
DE FR GB IT SE

(30) Priority: **29.12.1994 US 366139**

(43) Date of publication of application:
03.07.1996 Bulletin 1996/27

(73) Proprietor: **Tyco Submarine Systems Ltd.**
Morristown, NJ 07960 (US)

(72) Inventors:
• **Eskildsen, Lars E.**
Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey 07716 (US)
• **Hansen, Per B.**
Bradley Beach, New Jersey 07720 (US)

(74) Representative: **Weltzel, David Stanley et al**
Batchellor, Kirk & Co.,
102-108 Clerkenwell Road
London EC1M 5SA (GB)

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- **JOURNAL OF LIGHTWAVE TECHNOLOGY**, vol. 11, no. 11, 1 November 1993 pages 1721-1728, XP 000416668 FISHMAN D A ET AL 'DEGRADATIONS DUE TO STIMULATED BRILLOUIN SCATTERING IN MULTIGIGABIT INTENSITY-MODULATED FIBER-OPTIC SYSTEMS'

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Description

Technical Field

[0001] This invention relates to an apparatus and a method for transmitting high power lightwave signals and, more particularly, for transmitting signals whose power exceeds the stimulated Brillouin scattering threshold.

Background of the Invention

[0002] In optical transmission systems and especially in systems having long unrepeated fiber spans, it is important to launch as high an optical power into the transmission fiber as possible. Unfortunately, the amount of launch power at a particular wavelength is limited by nonlinear phenomena such as stimulated Brillouin scattering ("SBS"), stimulated Raman scattering, self-phase modulation, four-photon mixing and cross-phase modulation. These phenomena can degrade the optical signals and increase bit error rates for the data.

[0003] Narrow linewidth laser sources are particularly vulnerable to SBS problems because the SBS power threshold increases with increasing linewidth of the optical signal being propagated. The SBS power threshold is arbitrarily defined as the input optical pump signal power level at which the powers of the input optical pump signal and the backward Stokes signal become equal. It is well known that dithering of the source optical wavelength for a narrow linewidth source is a useful technique for overcoming the power limitations imposed by SBS. Specifically, the source wavelength can be swept over some narrow band of wavelengths by directly modulating the source laser with a periodically varying dithering current. This technique permits higher launch power to be employed - well above the original SBS threshold for the source without dithering - without incurring the penalty of SBS. Present experiments have shown that a dither rate, for the source wavelength, at or above approximately 5kHz is effective for suppressing SBS. See, for example, U. S. Patent 5,329,396 issued July 12, 1994.

[0004] But, there is one problem for this dither technique. As the dither current sweeps back and forth, it imparts an amplitude modulation at the dither rate. The amplitude modulation varies the envelope of modulated signal. For intensity modulated data, this additional or residual amplitude modulation on the intensity modulated signal penalizes the optical receiver by causing a closure of the eye pattern and thereby increasing the difficulty of discriminating between zero and one optical data bits. In other words, the error rate increases with increasing dither rate. To date, no one is known to have addressed or solved this problem.

[0005] Apparatus and method as set out in the preambles of the independent claims are disclosed by D.

A. Fishman and J.A. Nagel, *Journal of Lightwave Technology*, vol.11, no. 11, (1993), pages 1721-1728.

Summary of the Invention

[0006] Apparatus and methods according to the invention are set out in the independent claims preferred forms being set out in the dependent claims.

[0007] Stimulated Brillouin scattering has been effectively suppressed and the effect of residual amplitude modulation has been mitigated in a dithered optical transmitter by injecting the dithered optical signal into an optical device, such as a highly saturated amplifier, whose small-signal intensity response at the dither frequency dampens the residual amplitude modulation thereby decreasing the eye closure (alternatively, increasing the eye pattern opening). The optical device (e.g., the highly saturated amplifier) exhibits a low frequency cutoff (-3dB) at a frequency greater than or equal to the inverse of the round trip time for a fiber span with the effective optical transmission length into which the optical signal power is launched. That is, the low cutoff frequency should be greater than or equal to $c/2nL_{eff}$, where c is the speed of light in a vacuum, n is the effective refractive index for the transmission system, and L_{eff} is the effective optical fiber transmission length.

Brief Description of the Drawing

[0008] A more complete understanding of the invention may be obtained by reading the following description of specific illustrative embodiments of the invention in conjunction with the appended drawing in which:

FIG. 1 shows a simplified block diagram of a lightwave transmission system including an illustrative lightwave transmitter realized in accordance with the principles of the present invention;

FIG. 2 shows a graphical representation of linewidth broadening for a dithered optical source;

FIGs. 3A - 3C show graphical plots of gain versus input power, gain versus output power, and small signal intensity response versus frequency for an exemplary highly saturated optical amplifier suitable for use in the present invention;

FIGs. 4A shows an eye diagram for dithered optical transmitters without the highly saturated amplifier, whereas FIGs. 4B - 4D show eye diagrams at various dither rates for dithered optical transmitters including the highly saturated amplifier; and

FIG. 5 shows a comparison of experimental results for dithered transmitters with and without the highly saturated amplifier.

Detailed Description

[0009] FIG. 1 shows a block diagram of a transmission system including wavelength dithered transmitter

10, receiver 17, and optical transmission fiber 16 interconnecting the transmitter and the receiver. The transmitter is capable of high power operation without the deleterious effects of stimulated Brillouin scattering and residual amplitude modulation caused by dithering.

[0010] Transmitter 10 includes laser 11, dither source 12, a bias, an external modulator 14, and amplifier 15. External modulator 14 receives input data from a data source 13. While the illustrative embodiment of the transmitter shown in FIG. 1 uses external modulation, it is contemplated that the principles of the present invention will extend equally to directly modulated lasers.

[0011] Laser 11 is a nominally single frequency laser such as a distributed feedback laser or a distributed Bragg reflector laser or the like. An appropriate current ("BIAS") biases the laser for continuous wave operation. Dither source 12 supplies a periodic variation, such as a sinusoidal or square wave signal, to the bias signal. Alternatively, dithering can be obtained by inducing a local periodic variation of the laser operating temperature.

[0012] The effect of either of these dithering techniques is to sweep the optical carrier wavelength of the laser over a particular range of wavelengths at a periodic rate called a dither rate or frequency, f_d . The dither signal causes the laser output to be frequency modulated independent of, and in addition to, any other modulation such as analog or digital information encoding. This frequency modulation serves to increase the effective linewidth of the laser output.

[0013] It has been shown that a desirable dither frequency is at or above $c/2nL_{eff}$, where c is the speed of light in a vacuum, n is the effective refractive index for the transmission system, and L_{eff} is the effective optical fiber transmission length. L_{eff} can be approximated as $(1 - e^{-\alpha L})/\alpha \approx 1/\alpha$, where α is the optical fiber attenuation constant and L is the actual length of optical fiber. Typical systems have $\alpha = 0.22$ dB/km and L_{eff} is approximately 20 km. In most system applications, this translates to a dither rate of greater than or equal to approximately 5 kHz.

[0014] The minimum dither frequency ensures that the absolute optical frequency of the Brillouin gain is shifted in a time equal to the transit time of the optical fiber. This prevents any significant length of optical fiber from being subjected to a narrow linewidth signal of a particular wavelength for any appreciable amount of time. As a result, the interaction length for the optical signal within the fiber is shortened, thereby inhibiting SBS over the length of the fiber. In accordance with the principles of the invention as described in more detail below, the maximum dither frequency is bounded by the lower cutoff frequency (-3 dB point) for the optical device such as amplifier 15.

[0015] FIG. 2 shows a graphical illustration of the effective linewidth broadening accomplished by dithering the laser bias current. Curves 201, 202, and 203 are representative plots of the optical spectrum (intensity versus wavelength) for a typical single frequency laser bi-

ased at some fixed current I_0 . In normal operation, the laser produces an optical output signal having a fixed linewidth as shown by curve 201 centered about a wavelength λ_0 . When the dither signal is applied the bias current shifts between extremes and the laser outputs signals whose spectra are shown in curve 202 (bias at $I_0 - \Delta I$) and curve 203 (bias at $I_0 + \Delta I$). As illustrated, each output spectrum is shifted by a wavelength $\Delta\lambda$. When the bias current is dithered so that it cyclically varies between $I_0 - \Delta I$ and $I_0 + \Delta I$, the laser output when viewed over time appears to have a broadened output centered about λ_0 and represented by curve 204.

[0016] The magnitude of the dither required to effectively suppress SBS depends upon the $\Delta\nu/\Delta I$ frequency modulation response of the laser, where $\Delta\nu/\Delta I$ is the change in effective linewidth of the laser output per unit change in the laser bias current. Typical semiconductor lasers exhibit a frequency modulation response between 200 MHz/mA and 1 GHz/mA.

[0017] External modulator 14 provides intensity modulation for the output signal from laser 11. Data from data source 13 are encoded in a particular analog or digital format such as NRZ or RZ to create intensity variations in the laser output signal.

[0018] In addition to the intensity variations produced by modulator 14, amplitude modulation ("AM") related to the signal from dither source 12 also appears as a lower frequency intensity variation on the signals output from laser 11 and modulator 14. This additional AM signal is referred to as residual AM. It is this AM signal which corrupts the data received by receiver 17. Eye closure results at the receiver as shown in FIG. 4A for a 10 kHz dither signal.

[0019] In order to mitigate the effects of residual AM caused by dithering the laser bias while still retaining the positive results of dithering (namely, suppression of SBS during higher power lightwave transmission), highly saturated amplifier 15 is optically coupled to the modulator output. Highly saturated optical amplifier 15 has a low cutoff frequency f_c which is greater than or equal to $1/T_R$ (where T_R is the round trip transit time) established as $c/2nL_{eff}$, where c is the speed of light in a vacuum, n is the effective refractive index for the transmission system, and L_{eff} is the effective optical fiber transmission length. It should be noted that the dither frequency f_d is also greater than or equal to $c/2nL_{eff}$.

[0020] Amplifier 15, in one example from experimental practice, is realized as an erbium doped optical fiber amplifier. Characteristic gain and saturation recovery times of a non-saturated erbium doped optical fiber amplifier are typically on the order of 1 ms. Consequently, such an amplifier has little or no observable variation in the gain level when amplitude modulation of 10 kHz (e.g., residual amplitude modulation from the action of dithering the carrier wavelength of laser 11) is present on the input signal to the amplifier. The characteristic gain saturation and recovery times decrease with increasing levels of gain saturation. Lower limits on the saturation

and the recovery times are each on the order of 10 μ s. Consequently, the gain of a highly saturated amplifier will not respond to variations in the input signal power on a time scale shorter than approximately 10 μ s. However, a 10 kHz residual AM signal injected into a highly saturated amplifier on an intensity modulated signal will experience an intensity dependent gain which will reduce the modulation index of the residual AM.

[0021] FIGs. 3A through 3C show gain characteristics for an exemplary highly saturated erbium doped fiber amplifier suitable for use in the present invention. FIGs. 3A and 3B show the relationship of gain to input power and output power, respectively. FIG. 3C shows the small signal intensity response as a function of the frequency of the input signal measured via a square-law detector. In this FIG., arbitrary units are shown and there are 5dB/division along the ordinate. As shown in this FIG., useful dither signal frequencies from 5 kHz to almost 30 kHz are below the low cutoff frequency of the amplifier. That is, they are at frequencies where the small signal intensity response is approximately 3dB or more below the peak response above dc for the amplifier.

[0022] In one example from experimental practice, laser 11 was a distributed Bragg reflector laser operating at 1558 nm. A 10 v (peak-to-peak), 5 kHz signal from the dither source applied through a resistive connection to the laser achieved 10 kHz of dithering in the laser output by means of heating the laser diode (temperature dithering). The laser output was broadened to 12.5 GHz as a time-averaged FWHM measurement. In a second example from experimental practice, a 24 mA peak-to-peak 10 kHz current was superimposed on the dc bias of a DBR laser to obtain a laser linewidth broadening of 8.65 GHz. A 2.488 Gbps pseudo-random bit sequence data signal was applied to a LiNbO₃ Mach-Zehnder external optical intensity modulator. Prior to amplification, the modulated signal showed significant eye closure from the residual amplitude modulation caused by dithering. See FIG. 4A where the logical "1" rail is thickened thereby forcing the eye pattern to be more closed than expected. By passing this signal through the amplifier described above (see FIGs. 3A-3C), it is possible to restore a significant amount of the eye opening as shown in FIG. 4B. FIGs. 4C and 4D show eye pattern opening improvement as the dither frequency is reduced to 7kHz and 5 kHz, respectively, under the same other operating conditions.

[0023] FIG. 5 shows a series of curves which depict the relationship of bit error rate to received power. The curves having circular data points employ a 5 kHz dither signal; the curves having triangular data points employ a 7 kHz dither signal; and the curves having square data points employ a 10 kHz dither signal. The curves having hollow square, triangular and circular data points relate to systems wherein transmitter 10 did not include a highly saturated amplifier 15. The curves having filled square, triangular and circular data points relate to systems wherein transmitter 10 included a highly saturated

amplifier 15. The solid line curve on the left depicts an undithered transmission condition in which there is no dithering of the laser and the system launch power is less than 5 dBm. All other curves represent a system launch power of approximately 23 dBm.

[0024] Conclusions drawn from this experimental system data are that the dithered transmitter which included a highly saturated amplifier offered improved performance over comparable transmitters using dithering alone. Improved performance can be seen as a considerably lower bit error rate (several orders of magnitude lower) for the same received power or a significant power advantage (greater than 3 dB) for the same bit error rate. The latter improvement can be translated into range extension for the system length. It should also be noted that the dithered transmitter utilizing the highly saturated amplifier suffered a small penalty, less than 1 dB, with respect to the undithered system.

[0025] Although the dithered transmitter is described above with an erbium doped fiber amplifier, it is contemplated that other amplifiers such as semiconductor amplifiers or Raman amplifiers can be used in the inventive transmitter. It is only required that the particular amplifier satisfy the small signal intensity response condition. Of course, other optical devices may satisfy the response condition above and therefore would be suitable for substitution in transmitter 10 with amplifier 15.

[0026] The present invention has been described in terms of reducing the residual amplitude modulation after intensity modulation has been performed. It is contemplated, although not shown in the drawing, that the intensity modulator can be placed after amplifier 15.

[0027] As described above, the present invention will retain the positive benefit of dithering the optical carrier wavelength of an optical source without the normally attendant negative feature. That is, the present invention will allow generation and launching of higher than expected power optical signals without experiencing the effects of SBS and with significantly reduced residual amplitude modulation. The present invention improves either range extension, which is important in setting optical fiber span length, or bit error rate for a particular span length. The present invention can also be used to lower the output power and thereby accept a particular bit error rate.

[0028] The relationship between the low cutoff frequency and the dither rate,

$$\frac{c}{2nL_{\text{eff}}} \leq f_d \leq f_c$$

can be relaxed in that f_d can be less than or equal to $f_c + \epsilon$, where ϵ is a small frequency change to f_c so that even at the new frequency $f_c + \epsilon$ the small signal intensity response provides an intensity dependent response and suppresses the residual amplitude modulation.

Claims

1. Optical transmitter apparatus for generating a high power optical signal which is substantially immune from stimulated Brillouin scattering in a transmission medium having a refractive index n and an effective length L_{eff} , the apparatus comprising:

a laser having a supplied bias current for generating a continuous wave output signal operating at a predetermined optical carrier wavelength;

means connected to the laser for dithering the optical carrier wavelength of the laser at a periodic rate, f_d , said periodic rate being greater than or equal to $c/2nL_{eff}$, where c is the speed of light in a vacuum; and

an intensity modulator connected to an output of the laser for varying the intensity of the continuous wave output signal;

CHARACTERIZED BY:

highly saturated amplifier means responsive to an output signal from the intensity modulator for reducing a peak-to-peak amplitude of residual amplitude modulation on said intensity modulated output signal, said amplifier means having a low cutoff frequency, f_c , greater than or equal to f_d .

2. The optical transmitter apparatus as defined in claim 1 CHARACTERIZED IN THAT the highly saturated amplifier means is an erbium doped optical fiber amplifier.
3. The optical transmitter apparatus as defined in claim 1 CHARACTERIZED IN THAT the highly saturated amplifier means is a semiconductor amplifier.
4. The optical transmitter apparatus as defined in claim 1 CHARACTERIZED IN THAT the highly saturated amplifier means is a Raman amplifier.
5. The optical transmitter apparatus as defined in claim 2 CHARACTERIZED IN THAT the transmission medium is single-mode optical fiber and the periodic rate is greater than or equal to 5 kHz.
6. The optical transmitter apparatus as defined in claim 1 CHARACTERIZED IN THAT the dithering means varies the bias current to the laser.
7. The optical transmitter apparatus as defined in claim 1 CHARACTERIZED IN THAT the dithering means varies an operating temperature of the laser.

8. Method for generating a high power optical signal which is substantially immune from stimulated Brillouin scattering in a transmission medium having a refractive index n and an effective length L_{eff} , the method comprising:

generating an optical output signal having a wavelength which varies at a periodic rate about a predetermined optical carrier wavelength said periodic rate being greater than or equal to $c/2nL_{eff}$;

CHARACTERIZED BY

reducing the peak-to-peak amplitude of residual amplitude modulation on said optical output signal by amplifying the signal so that the said periodic rate occurs in a small signal intensity response region in the neighborhood of or below the low frequency cutoff of said amplification.

9. The method as defined in claim 8 CHARACTERIZED IN THAT the step of generating further includes biasing a laser via a bias current to produce the optical output signal and dithering the bias current to the laser at a periodic rate, f_d , said periodic rate being greater than or equal to $c/2nL_{eff}$, where c is the speed of light in a vacuum to vary the wavelength of the optical output signal.
10. The method as defined in claim 9 CHARACTERIZED IN THAT the generating step further includes the step of modulating the intensity of the optical output signal in response to a data signal.
11. Optical transmitter apparatus for generating a high power optical signal which is substantially immune from stimulated Brillouin scattering in a transmission medium having a refractive index n and an effective length L_{eff} , the apparatus comprising:

an optical source for generating an intensity modulated output signal having a carrier wavelength which varies about a predetermined wavelength at a periodic rate, f_d greater than or equal to $c/2nL_{eff}$;

CHARACTERIZED BY

highly saturated amplifier means responsive to the intensity modulated output signal for reducing a peak-to-peak amplitude of residual amplitude modulation occurring substantially related to said periodic rate on said intensity modulated output signal, said amplifier means having a low cutoff frequency, f_c , greater than or equal to f_d .

12. Optical transmitter apparatus for generating a high power optical signal which is substantially immune from stimulated Brillouin scattering in a transmission medium having a refractive index n and an effective length L_{eff} , the apparatus comprising:

an optical source for generating a continuous wave output signal having a carrier wavelength which varies about a predetermined wavelength at a periodic rate, f_d greater than or equal to $c/2nL_{\text{eff}}$;

CHARACTERIZED BY

highly saturated amplifier means responsive to the intensity modulated output signal for reducing a peak-to-peak amplitude of residual amplitude modulation occurring substantially related to said periodic rate on said intensity modulated output signal, said amplifier means having a low cutoff frequency, f_c , greater than or equal to f_d .

Patentansprüche

1. Optische Sendevorrichtung zur Erzeugung eines optischen Hochleistungssignals, das in einem Übertragungsmedium mit einem Brechungsindex n und einer effektiven Länge L_{eff} frei von erregter Brillouin-Streuung ist, mit

einem Laser mit einem zugeführten Vorstrom zur Erzeugung eines Dauerstrich-Ausgangssignals, das auf einer bestimmten optischen Trägerwellenlänge arbeitet,

an den Laser angeschlossene Einrichtungen zur Zitterung der optischen Trägerwellenlänge des Lasers mit einer periodischen Geschwindigkeit f_d , die größer oder gleich $c/2nL_{\text{eff}}$ ist, worin c die Lichtgeschwindigkeit im Vakuum ist, und

einem an den Laserausgang angeschlossenen Intensitätsmodulator zur Variierung der Intensität des Dauerstrich-Ausgangssignals,

gekennzeichnet durch eine

auf ein Ausgangssignal von dem Intensitätsmodulator ansprechende, hochgesättigte Verstärkereinrichtung zur Reduzierung einer Spitze-Spitze-Amplitude der Restamplitudenmodulation auf dem genannten intensitätsmodulierten Ausgangssignal, wobei die Verstärkereinrichtung eine untere Grenzfrequenz f_c von größer als oder gleich f_d hat.

2. Optische Sendevorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, da-

durch gekennzeichnet, daß die hochgesättigte Verstärkereinrichtung ein mit Erbium dotierter optischer Faserverstärker ist.

3. Optische Sendeeinrichtung nach Anspruch 1, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die hochgesättigte Verstärkereinrichtung ein Halbleiter-Verstärker ist.

4. Optische Sendevorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die hochgesättigte Verstärkereinrichtung ein Raman-Verstärker ist.

5. Optische Sendevorrichtung nach Anspruch 2, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Übertragungsmedium eine optische Monomode-Faser ist und die periodische Geschwindigkeit größer als oder gleich 5 kHz ist.

6. Optische Sendeeinrichtung nach Anspruch 1, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Zitterungseinrichtung den Vorstrom zu dem Laser variiert.

7. Optische Sendeeinrichtung nach Anspruch 1, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Zitterungseinrichtung eine Betriebstemperatur des Lasers variiert.

8. Verfahren zur Erzeugung eines optischen Hochleistungssignals, das in einem Übertragungsmedium mit einem Brechungsindex n und einer effektiven Länge L_{eff} frei von erregter Brillouin-Streuung ist, bei dem man

ein optisches Ausgangssignal mit einer Wellenlänge erzeugt, die mit einer periodischen Geschwindigkeit um eine bestimmte optische Trägerwellenlänge variiert, wobei die periodische Geschwindigkeit größer als oder gleich $c/2nL_{\text{eff}}$ ist,

dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß man die Spitze-Spitze-Amplitude der Restamplitudenmodulation auf dem genannten optischen Ausgangssignal durch Signalverstärkung so reduziert, daß die periodische Geschwindigkeit in einem Ansprechbereich geringer Signalintensität in der Nähe oder unterhalb der unteren Grenzfrequenz der genannten Verstärkung auftritt.

9. Verfahren nach Anspruch 8, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Erzeugungsstufe ferner die Vorspannung eines Lasers über einen Vorstrom umfaßt, um das optische Ausgangssignal zu erzeugen, sowie die Zitterung des Vorstroms zum Laser mit einer periodischen Geschwindigkeit f_d , die größer als oder gleich $c/2nL_{\text{eff}}$ ist, worin c die Lichtgeschwindigkeit im Vakuum ist, um die Wellenlänge des optischen Ausgangssignals zu variieren.

10. Verfahren nach Anspruch 9, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Erzeugungsstufe ferner die Stufe der Intensitätsmodulierung des optischen Ausgangssignals in Reaktion auf ein Datensignal umfaßt.

11. Optische Sendevorrichtung zur Erzeugung eines optischen Hochleistungssignals, das in einem Übertragungsmedium mit einem Brechungsindex n und einer effektiven Länge L_{eff} frei von erregter Brillouin-Streuung ist, mit

einer optischen Quelle zur Erzeugung eines intensitätsmodulierten Ausgangssignals mit einer Trägerwellenlänge, die um eine bestimmte Wellenlänge mit einer periodischen Geschwindigkeit f_d variiert, die größer als oder gleich $c/2nL_{\text{eff}}$ ist,

gekennzeichnet durch eine

auf das intensitätsmodulierte Ausgangssignal ansprechende, hochgesättigte Verstärkereinrichtung zur Reduzierung einer Spitze-Spitze-Amplitude der Restamplitudenmodulation, die im wesentlichen in Verbindung mit der genannten periodischen Geschwindigkeit auf dem genannten intensitätsmodulierten Ausgangssignal auftritt, wobei die Verstärkereinrichtung eine untere Grenzfrequenz f_c größer als oder gleich f_d hat.

12. Optische Sendevorrichtung zur Erzeugung eines optischen Hochleistungssignals, das in einem Übertragungsmedium mit einem Brechungsindex n und einer effektiven Länge L_{eff} frei von erregter Brillouin-Streuung ist, mit

einer optischen Quelle zur Erzeugung eines Dauerstrich-Ausgangssignals mit einer Trägerwellenlänge, die um eine bestimmte Wellenlänge mit einer periodischen Geschwindigkeit f_d variiert, die größer als oder gleich $c/2nL_{\text{eff}}$ ist,

gekennzeichnet durch eine

auf das intensitätsmodulierte Ausgangssignal ansprechende, hochgesättigte Verstärkereinrichtung zur Reduzierung der Spitze-Spitze-Amplitude der Restamplitudenmodulation, die im wesentlichen in Verbindung mit der genannten periodischen Geschwindigkeit auf dem intensitätsmodulierten Ausgangssignal auftritt, wobei die Verstärkereinrichtung eine untere Grenzfrequenz f_c von größer als oder gleich f_d hat.

Revendications

1. Dispositif d'émetteur optique pour générer un signal optique de puissance élevée qui est sensiblement immunisé contre la diffusion Brillouin stimulée dans un support de transmission ayant un indice de réfraction n et une longueur efficace L_{eff} , le dispositif comprenant :

un laser ayant un courant de polarisation fourni pour générer un signal de sortie entretenu fonctionnant à une longueur d'onde de porteuse optique prédéterminée ;

des moyens connectés au laser pour faire trembler la longueur d'onde de porteuse optique du laser à une fréquence périodique, f_d , ladite fréquence périodique étant supérieure ou égale à $c/2nL_{\text{eff}}$, où c est la vitesse de la lumière dans le vide ; et

un modulateur d'intensité connecté à une sortie du laser pour faire varier l'intensité du signal de sortie entretenu ;

caractérisé par

des moyens formant amplificateur hautement saturé sensibles à un signal de sortie provenant du modulateur d'intensité pour réduire une amplitude crête à crête de la modulation d'amplitude résiduelle sur ledit signal de sortie modulé en intensité, lesdits moyens formant amplificateur ayant une fréquence de coupure basse, f_c , supérieure ou égale à f_d .

2. Dispositif d'émetteur optique selon la revendication 1, caractérisé en ce que les moyens formant amplificateur hautement saturé sont un amplificateur à fibre optique dopée à l'erbium.

3. Dispositif d'émetteur optique selon la revendication 1, caractérisé en ce que les moyens formant amplificateur hautement saturé sont un amplificateur à semi-conducteur.

4. Dispositif d'émetteur optique selon la revendication 1, caractérisé en ce que les moyens formant amplificateur hautement saturé sont un amplificateur Raman.

5. Dispositif d'émetteur optique selon la revendication 2, caractérisé en ce que le support de transmission est une fibre optique à mode unique et la fréquence périodique est supérieure ou égale à 5 kHz.

6. Dispositif d'émetteur optique selon la revendication 1, caractérisé en ce que les moyens de tremblement font varier le courant de polarisation vers le laser.

7. Dispositif d'émetteur optique selon la revendication 1, caractérisé en ce que les moyens de tremblement font varier une température de fonctionnement du laser.

8. Procédé pour générer un signal optique de puissance élevée qui est sensiblement immunisé contre la diffusion Brillouin stimulée dans un support de transmission ayant un indice de réfraction n et une longueur efficace L_{eff} , le procédé comprenant :

la génération d'un signal de sortie optique ayant une longueur d'onde qui varie à une fréquence périodique autour d'une longueur d'onde de porteuse optique prédéterminée, ladite fréquence périodique étant supérieure ou égale à $c/2nL_{\text{eff}}$;

caractérisé par

la réduction de l'amplitude crête à crête de la modulation d'amplitude résiduelle sur ledit signal de sortie optique en amplifiant le signal, de sorte que ladite fréquence périodique se produise dans une région de réponse à faible intensité de signal dans le voisinage ou au-dessous de la coupure de fréquence basse de ladite amplification.

9. Procédé selon la revendication 8, caractérisé en ce que l'étape de génération comprend, de plus, la polarisation d'un laser via un courant de polarisation pour produire le signal de sortie optique et le tremblement du courant de polarisation vers le laser à une fréquence périodique, f_d , ladite fréquence périodique étant supérieure ou égale à $c/2nL_{\text{eff}}$, où c est la vitesse de la lumière dans le vide, pour faire varier la longueur d'onde du signal de sortie optique.

10. Procédé selon la revendication 9, caractérisé en ce que l'étape de génération comprend, de plus, l'étape de modulation de l'intensité du signal de sortie optique en réponse à un signal de données.

11. Dispositif d'émetteur optique pour générer un signal optique de puissance élevée qui est sensiblement immunisé contre la diffusion Brillouin stimulée dans un support de transmission ayant un indice de réfraction n et une longueur efficace L_{eff} , le dispositif comprenant :

une source optique pour générer un signal de sortie modulé en intensité ayant une longueur d'onde de porteuse qui varie autour d'une longueur d'onde prédéterminée à une fréquence périodique, f_d , supérieure ou égale à $c/2nL_{\text{eff}}$;

caractérisé par

des moyens formant amplificateur hautement saturé sensibles au signal de sortie modulé en intensité pour réduire une amplitude crête à crête de la modulation d'amplitude résiduelle survenant sensiblement en rapport avec ladite fréquence périodique sur ledit signal de sortie modulé en intensité, lesdits moyens formant amplificateur ayant une fréquence de coupure basse, f_c , supérieure ou égale à f_d .

12. Dispositif d'émetteur optique pour générer un signal optique de puissance élevée qui est sensiblement immunisé contre la diffusion Brillouin stimulée dans un support de transmission ayant un indice de réfraction n et une longueur efficace L_{eff} , le dispositif comprenant :

une source optique pour générer un signal de sortie entretenu ayant une longueur d'onde de porteuse qui varie autour d'une longueur d'onde prédéterminée à une fréquence périodique, f_d , supérieure ou égale à $c/2nL_{\text{eff}}$;

caractérisé par

des moyens formant amplificateur hautement saturé sensibles au signal de sortie modulé en intensité pour réduire une amplitude crête à crête de la modulation d'amplitude résiduelle survenant sensiblement en rapport avec ladite fréquence périodique sur ledit signal de sortie modulé en intensité, lesdits moyens formant amplificateur ayant une fréquence de coupure basse, f_c , supérieure ou égale à f_d .

FIG. 1

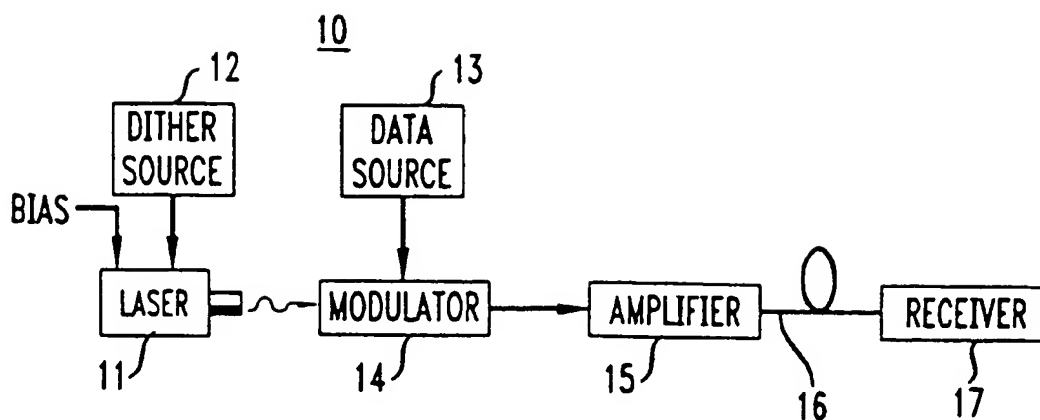


FIG. 2

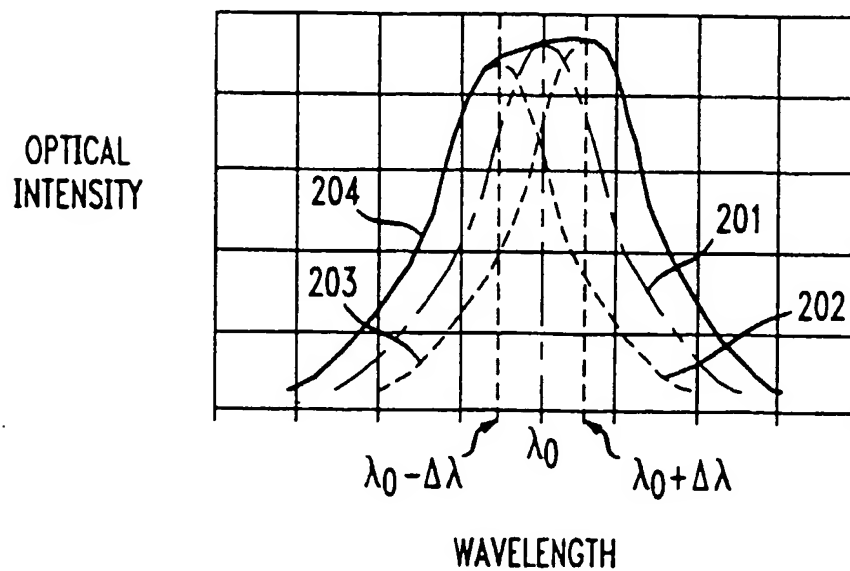


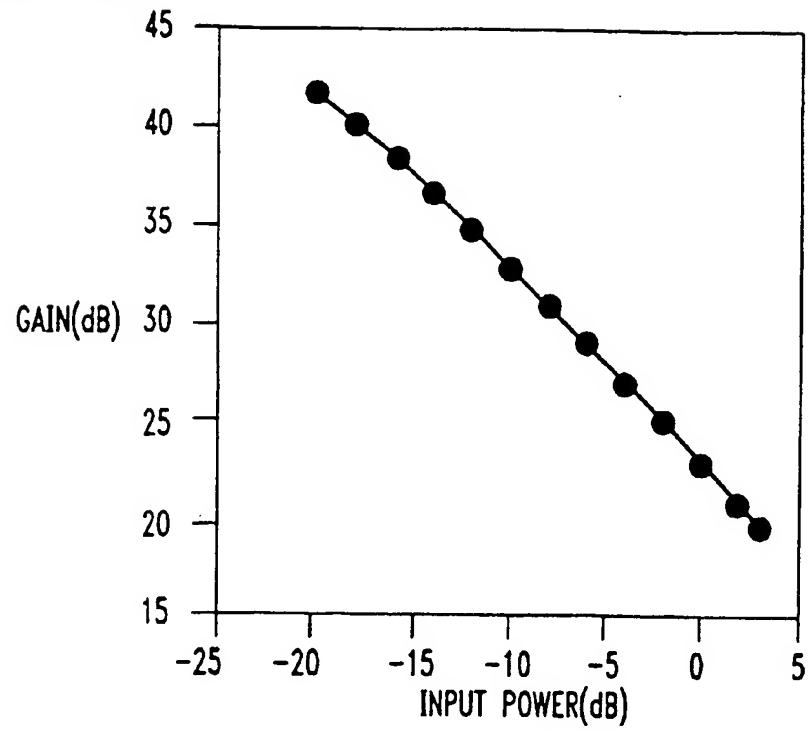
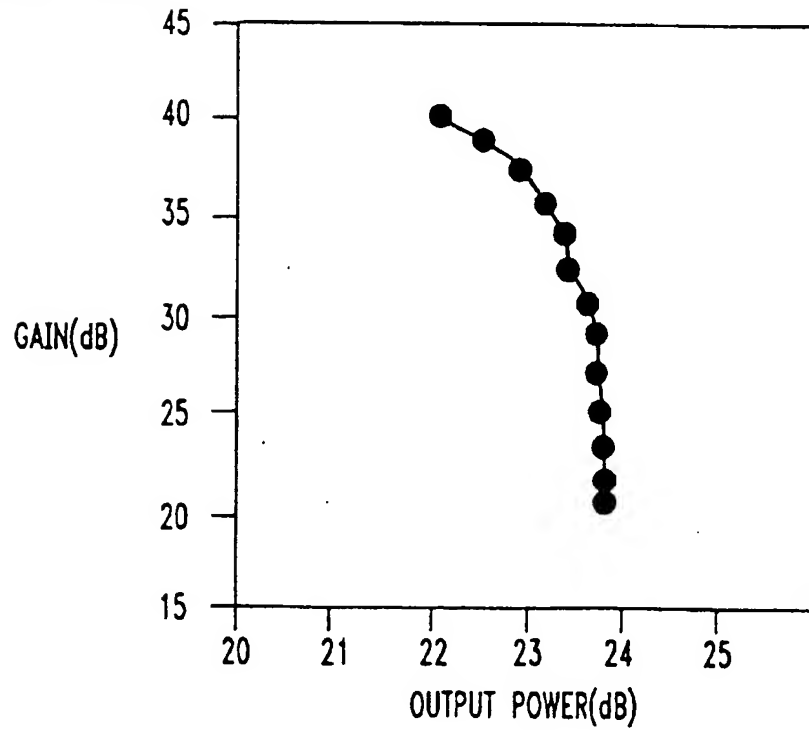
FIG. 3A*FIG. 3B*

FIG. 3C

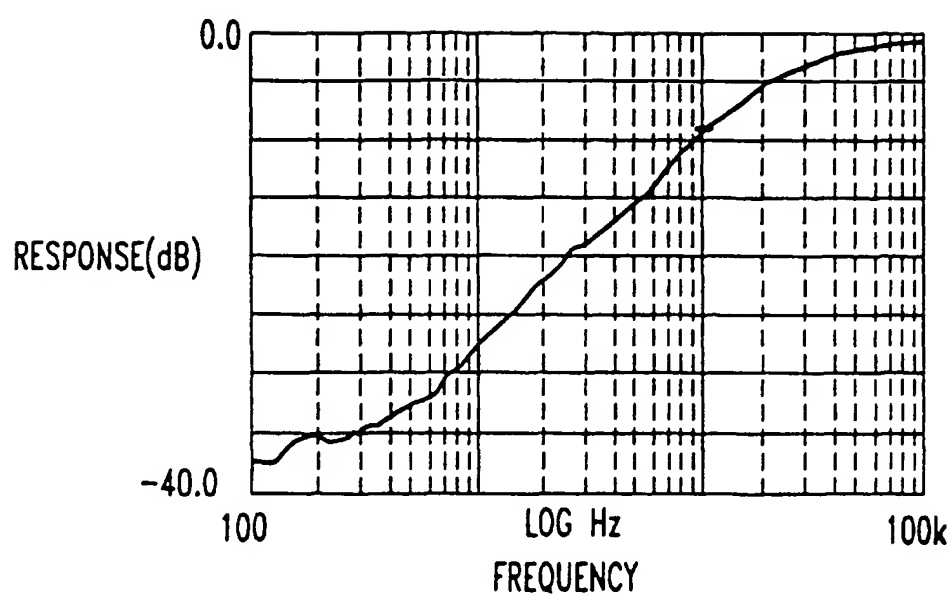


FIG. 4A

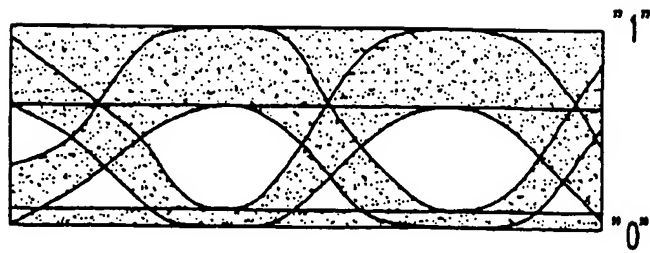


FIG. 4B

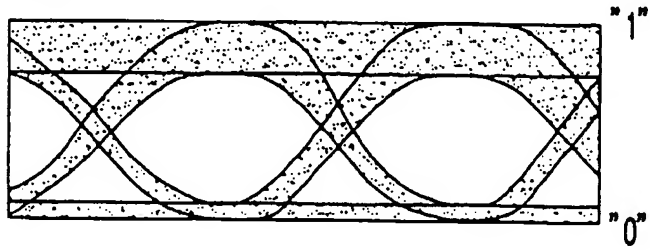


FIG. 4C

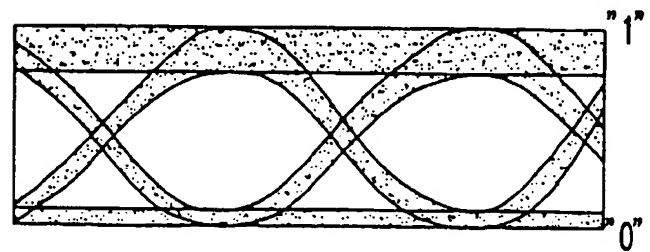


FIG. 4D

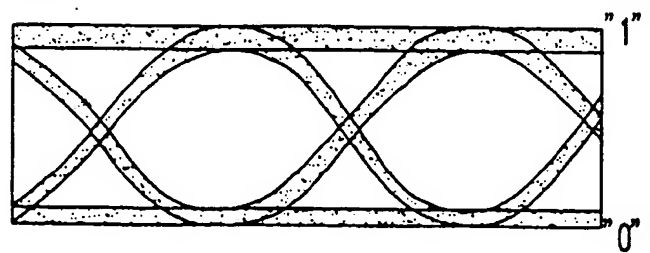


FIG. 5

